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Complete if Known

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
N.M.		US 5,448,447	B1	09-05-1995	Chang
		US 4,954,169	B1	09-04-1990	Behrens
		US 4,084,965	B1	04-18-1978	Fry
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		US 6,171,363	B1	01-09-2001	Shekhter et al.
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)			
N.M.		GB	1 219 748		01-20-1971	George et al.	
		JP	10-242004		09-11-1998	Showa Denko KK	Abstract
		JP	02-039417		02-08-1990	Marcon Electron Co., Ltd.	Abstract
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		JP	05-009790		01-19-1993	Nippon Chemicon Corp.	Abstract
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		JP	60-121207		06-28-1985	Toyo Soda Kogyo KK	Abstract
N.M.		WO	98/19811		05-14-1998	Cabot Corporation	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
N.M.		"Reactions During Sintering of Niobium Powder from Aluminothermic Reduction Product," R&HM, December 1985, Vol. 4, pp. 189-194	
N.M.		"The Influence of Gas Atmospheres on the First-Stage Sintering of High-Purity Niobium Powders", Metallurgical Transactions, June 1984, Vol. 15, pp. 1111-1116	

Examiner Signature

N. Gordan Ma

Date Considered

9/24/04

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.